

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Michael Miranda Lazaro , I am a Resident from New Britain

I stand in support of S.B. 284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS. Expanding access to HUSKY up to age 18 regardless of immigration status is an important step in ensuring our immigrant community has access to the healthcare we need. But our work doesn't end with expanding access up to age 18; we need to open access to HUSKY and healthcare to all immigrants of any age, including parents and adults.

My name is Michael Miranda Lazaro, I'm originally from Brooklyn, New York but I'm currently a resident from New Britain, CT. I am a father and a child of immigrants. Husky for Immigrants matters to me because coming from New York, I see my parents who are undocumented who can apply to have some kind of support financially through small healthcare plans from their jobs and then coming here to Connecticut, which is a very wealthy state, and it's not an option is very eye opening and unfair.

Seeing my parents and family members get hurt at work or having pain is triggering. My father was in a very bad accident at his job that left him in the hospital for over a month. The medical bills we received were very high to the point I had to drop out of school to support my mom with utility bills so she could concentrate on finding support to pay my fathers medical bills.

Having access to healthcare would have a very big impact when emergencies happen. For example, in my community I know of people who have been turned away from medical care when they have emergencies because they don't have medical insurance. After being in Connecticut from pre covid and living here throughout the pandemic it is necessary that undocumented folks have access to Husky healthcare.

I support S.B. 284 and I ask the committee to support and pass this legislation. Looking forward, I ask the committee to work towards opening access to all immigrants regardless of age.

Thank you for your time,

Michael Miranda Lazaro